

March 4th, 2016

Legislative Office Building, Room 3200
Hartford, CT 06106

Re: Raised Bill Number 232 – Oppose

Dear Co-Chairs Kennedy and Albis, Ranking Members Chapin and Shaban, and members of the Environment Committee;

The Corporation for Battery Recycling (CBR) respectfully requests this letter be submitted as written testimony concerning Raised Bill Number 232. CBR represents the manufacturers of the majority of batteries sold in the US market.

CBR opposes this legislation and instead favors a comprehensive primary and rechargeable battery recycling plan that is not included in this measure. CBR, the National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA) and the Rechargeable Battery Association (PRBA) worked together in 2014 to successfully craft a comprehensive model bill for primary and rechargeable battery recycling which we have discussed the past two years with the leadership of the Environment Committee and other stakeholders.

CBR is an organization formed to work with retailers, recyclers, environmental groups, and governments across the country to encourage legislation that promotes the removal of spent primary batteries from the normal waste streams.

Raised Bill 232, as written now, simply adds consumer household primary batteries to the list of batteries that may be recycled without a rule of enforcement. The bill does nothing to:

- Meet growing consumer demand for a responsible disposal mechanism for household batteries;
- Reduce the financial and administrative burden on municipal governments of properly disposing batteries;
- Ensure a level playing field among battery manufacturers and other producers that supply batteries to the Connecticut market; or
- Minimize administrative costs to the state and the burden on Connecticut taxpayers.

In the interest of developing a comprehensive and defined program CBR, NEMA and PRBA has legislation that would enact such a program being considered currently by the Maine legislature. To truly benefit Connecticut consumers, CBR encourages the committee to consider similar legislation.

Any battery legislation, to be acceptable to the battery industry, must reflect a set of key fundamental principles. For more information about these principles, please visit the CBR webpage:
<http://recyclebattery.org/legislation/>.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony. If the committee has any questions or requests for information please contact CBR Staff: Zach Koser | zkoser@kellencompany.com | 212-297-2137.

Respectfully,



Marcus Boolish
President
Corporation for Battery Recycling (CBR)